

What Is Whiskey—Odd Pages From History

"Before they had bread to satisfy hunger, the James River settlers had made sour wine of wild grapes," wrote Edward Eggleston, in "Colonial Times." The production of alcoholic beverage was one of this country's earliest and most extensive industries. If the question, "What is wine?" seriously agitated the colonists there is no record of it. But three centuries later, "What is whiskey and why?" became a burning issue.

What is whiskey? A part of the "coin of the realm" in the beginning of the republic and its largest source of revenue now. There are other definitions, complimentary and uncomplimentary, as to the relations of whiskey to man, but the above is a brief historical and economical epitome of its relations to the government of the United States.

Whiskey, usquebaugh, pooten, aqua vita, water of life, strong drink—call it what you will—is as old as the world and has been the subject of more discussion, more enology, more denunciation, than any other product of man or nature. Prophets and poets, preachers and physicians have praised and prescribed or warned against and condemned the use of whiskey, and it remains the one article of commerce of greatest American antiquity, and continues to grow in volume and use.

Abraham Lincoln said that the use of intoxicating liquors was as old as the world and was recognized by everybody, used by everybody, condemned by nobody. "It commonly entered into the first draught of the infant and the last draught of the dying man."

Solomon and the Turks.

In that expression, Lincoln but paraphrased the proverb of Solomon: "Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish and wine unto those that have heavy hearts." The use and abuse of whiskey is not new, nor is the discussion of it. Only the Turk has prohibited the use of meat and strong drink, and the Turk has gradually given way before the march of Christian civilization and is now about to be expelled from Europe.

Whiskey is not an invention of America. Whatever the name and method of its manufacture of strong drink in Biblical times, the distillation of whiskey and the name belong to Ireland and Scotland, the home of virile men who first began the contest for the rights of men in government, long before Columbus set out on his voyage of discovery. The Irish name, usquebaugh, pronounced "whiskey-baugh," signifies water of life. It has been the drink of the Irish, Scotch and English for 600 years and is still favored by them over every other beverage. But whiskey has had a long and intimate association with the United States, which began with the Pilgrims, whose chief regret on landing on the point of Cape Cod hook, in a stress of weather, was that their stock of Scotch whiskey and English ale was too low to warm the bodies and cheer the hearts of the men who, after their long voyage, had to battle with the elements in getting to the land. The first manufacture of New England was New England rum and it became the first article of commerce with the colonists, both in New England and Virginia. When corn and rye became successful crops, the colonists made whiskey as well as rum.

First Article of Commerce.

That beginning was the precedent for the existing wave of commerce and civilization over the American continent, and whiskey, venison and buffalo meat went with the old long rifles and the hardy emigrants, as the Indians were driven back and the virgin soil of America was put to the plow and compelled to yield the fruits and grains of civilization. The surplus corn and rye were converted into whiskey, as the most compact product that could be manufactured and sent to market. Whiskey became the first article of commerce sent back from the new country, just as it was one of the advance agents in opening the new country. With only blazed trails through the forests and over the mountains, as the highways of commerce, and the back of a horse the only freight transportation, there was the necessity for reducing the grain grown on the frontier to its most compact form for commerce, and whiskey became the first subject of national commerce even before there were States.

As whiskey was the first article of manufacture and commerce among the pioneers it laid the foundation for many early fortunes and gave reputation to many estates and plantations. It was a foundation, too, on which there was no stain, for it was considered honorable to make and sell whiskey and wine or wine brandy. The Virginia colony gave colonial encouragement and aid to those who grew vineyards to produce wine. Edward Eggleston, in his history, "The Colonial Times," says:

Won Wager in His Vineyard.

"Before they had bread to satisfy hunger, the James River settlers had made sour wine of wild grapes. In 1624 the growing of five vines was made obligatory on every planter, and in 1628 10,000 pounds of tobacco were promised to him who should first produce two tons of Virginia wine. The tolerable fitness of the Virginia climate and soil for grape growing was proved over and over again by the vine dressers brought over from France in the first years, by the Huguenots, who produced wine on a small scale for a long time; by the Palatines on the Rappahannock, and by many others. Beverley, the historian, won a wager of a thousand guineas by making 400 gallons of wine from his vineyard of three acres. Yet, so late as 1762, subscriptions were solicited to set on foot a new beginning of grape culture in Virginia.

"Undaunted by climate, the Massachusetts immigrants asked for French vine dressers, in 1629, and later an island in Boston Harbor was leased

to Gov. Winthrop by the sanguine General Court for a hoghead of the best wine that should be made there annually. In the patronship of Rensselaer at Albany wine was produced, as it was by the pioneers on the Delaware. It was attempted by French settlers in Rhode Island and Carolina; the latter province was expected to supply the whole demand of the West Indies. William Penn only hesitated whether to import foreign wines or to 'fine' the American ones, and ended by trying both plans, establishing a vineyard with 2,000 French vines near Philadelphia. It is unnecessary to trace further this chronicle of failure in wine growing. To the end of the colonial epoch these efforts were renewed, vine dressers were sent over and rewards were offered, but no considerable quantity was ever made. It was cheaper at that day to import from Madeira and Portugal than to import labor from the profitable American staples to grow wine, and the law of relative cheapness is as hard to escape as that of gravitation."

Did Not Drink Water.

Yet the early attempts at viticulture and brandy distillation left their geographical mark in Eastern Pennsylvania, where, even though grape culture failed, there is still the stream called the Brandywine, on whose banks one of the battles of the Revolution was fought.

Dr. Eggleston says that water was never used as a beverage by the colonists, not even by the women and children. They had all manner of light decoctions for the children, but did not have them drink water, unless sweetened with molasses. The men drank whiskey, rum and ale, and a woman was not considered a good housewife if she neglected to brew the family ale and beer. There was a still on every plantation and whiskey and rum were a part of the daily rations. They could not have a christening, a funeral, or the induction of a preacher into his sacred office without these beverages, and the preachers were as much given to their use as any of the parishioners. The man who condemned the use of liquors in those days would have been worse treated than were the Quakers for their peculiar religious belief, and they were banished from most of the colonies.

But the Quakers were not opposed to strong drink. They, too, used whiskey and drew the line on tea. The leading Quaker of Philadelphia made a public demonstration of his opposition to tea when it was introduced by taking his wife's tea china to the public square and breaking it. The people who gathered about him begged him to save the china, which was imported and artistic. They sympathized with his condemnation of tea as the product of the heathen, Chinese, but they wanted to save the English china. The old Quaker was inexorable and smashed the cups and saucers as the implements of the heathen deception. Preachers and doctors inveighed against the new drink, and found in it the cause of many ills, especially of the stomach and nerves. Tea was responsible for nervous, irritable and lazy women, and the man who drank tea even at a social function was considered too effeminate to mingle with his fellow men.

Coffee Likewise Shunned.

Coffee came in for a like abuse, though not so violent, perhaps, because it came from English settlements in the Orient and did not have its origin in the land of the heathen Chinese. There are still physicians in this modern and enlightened age who profess to believe that both tea and coffee are greater causes of ill health through excessive use than any alcoholic drink.

But in the hardy pioneer days, when wading through the snow in the forest, or sailing the sea in an open boat in all kinds of weather were not considered hardships, they all drank liquor and refused to drink water. Perhaps they would have builded better had they all been teetotalers, and perhaps not. They did build well, even though they not infrequently were drunk and did not consider even drunkenness a sin, but laughed at it, and contested as to which could sit longest at table and not get under it. The governor of one of the colonies gave a banquet to an official delegation from another colony, and his first act of hospitality was to lock the door, put the key in his pocket and announce that no man would be allowed to leave the room sober. So what the governor of North Carolina said to the governor of South Carolina is not of recent origin, however much it has been repeated in later days. The Dutch of New York had their beer and they were as jealous of it as of their long pipes and tobacco. Both were considered evidences of manhood and badges of free citizenship.

Rum the Mainstay.

"But there was nothing in the Northern and Middle British colonies wanted so much as rum," says Dr. Eggleston. "With rum they supplied their fishing vessels and whale ships; with rum they traded to Newfoundland, and bought negroes on the Guinea coast; with rum they trafficked for corn and illicit tobacco in the Virginia rivers, and for poltries and corn in the North Carolina inlets; with rum they cajoled the Indian out of his wampum and beaver skins, and with rum they cheered the homely festivities and solemnities of pioneer life—weddings, house-raising, huskings, funerals, and the ordinations of new ministers.

"No odium appears to have attached to the contraband trade. No church discountenanced it, and no man lost standing by the practice. Courageous or ingenious smuggling was probably accounted more honorable than tame submission to inequitable laws; it was even defended in Parliament by Edmund Burke." Since New England rum was one of the chief articles of export and trade,

many New England fortunes were founded on that trade. It is said that Harvard College had its first endowments from those who made and sold New England rum. Girard College also had its beginning in the trade of Stephen Girard, trafficked in the great American staples of whiskey and rum, and one of the conditions left by Stephen Girard was that no preacher should enter Girard College.

William Penn, George Washington, Roger Williams, Samuel Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and others of the early days were not averse to the manufacture and sale of whiskey, wine, rum, and beer, and were identified with the manufacture and sale of these products to which many people now object as the source of all evil.

The only prohibition against an institution or industry written into the constitution of the United States was that Congress should make no law respecting an establishment of religion. Those old builders of a nation who did not hesitate to make whiskey a part of the ration for the Continental army, and pledge their fortunes made in rum and whiskey to the upbuilding of a nation, would not have an established religion as part of the foundation. They were peculiarly sensitive to any such law in their patriotism in those early days.

Roger Williams, driven out of Massachusetts on account of his religion, set up a brewery in Rhode Island and made beer when he was not engaged in preaching the gospel. But today, he is a reckless man who would assail Roger Williams as an agent of the devil, and is now accused in Massachusetts, not on account of his beer, but of his heterodox religion.

Abraham Lincoln, in his one great temperance address, said: "From the sideboard of the parson down to the ragged pocket of the homeless loafer, (i) whiskey) was constantly used. Physicians prescribed it for this, that and the other ailment; governments provided it for soldiers and sailors; and to have a rolling or raising, a husking or hoe-down, anything in short, without it, was positively insufferable. So, too, it was everywhere a respectable article of manufacture and merchandise. The making of it was regarded as an honorable livelihood and he who could make most of it was the most enterprising and respectable. Large and small manufactories of it were everywhere erected, in which all the earthly goods of their owners were invested. Wagons drew it from town to town; boats bore it from clime to clime, and the winds wafted it from nation to nation; and the merchants bought and sold it by wholesale and retail, with practically the same feelings on the part of seller, buyer, and bystander as one felt at the selling and buying of plows, beef, bacon or any other of the real necessities of life. Universal public opinion not only tolerated, but recognized and adopted its use."

Just Like a Bank note. Whiskey was associated with liberty in the administration of Washington, and a large part of the country rebelled against the excise tax on whiskey. Just as the colonists became insurgent against the tea tax a few years earlier, McMaster says that as a bank note was to the man in Philadelphia, so was a gallon of whiskey to the man in Pittsburgh. Whiskey meant ready money and it was the most compact form in which the corn and rye of Western Pennsylvania could be marketed and sent over the Allegheny Mountains. So when the First Congress of the United States followed the recommendations of Alexander Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury and placed an excise tax on whiskey, averaging to cents a gallon, the farmers of Western Pennsylvania rose in revolt.

"Tom Tinker" became ubiquitous and a synonym of liberty and independence. Every man who uttered a notice of protest in the woods or clearings or along the roads signed himself "Tom Tinker," and in that name declared for whiskey and liberty against excise and English laws made by Americans as well as by Englishmen. The people of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina sympathized with the farmers of Western Pennsylvania in their opposition to the excise tax, because they all made whiskey, considered rye whiskey a purely American product, and a part of the new republic. It was the great American beverage, typical of the independence that had dumped the tea into Boston Harbor. President Washington and Congress had a whiskey rebellion on their hands which four years after a beginning of the new government, and it was so threatening that the President not only raised an army, but accompanied it as commander-in-chief as far as Bedford, Pa. The whiskey rebellion was put down without bloodshed, but by a compromise, for Congress hurriedly enacted a law to try the cases in the State courts, in case the alleged violations were fifty miles distant from a Federal court, and later the objectionable tax was repealed.

Effect of the Whiskey Rebellion. That rebellion, however, associated whiskey with the spirit which made the republic and carried its conquest into the West. It was the chief commercial product and part of the food of the Western pioneer, and he feared the Federal tax on whiskey as he would a tax on the rye or corn from which it was made. It was his marketable form of those products of the soil and he was ready to defend it with his life. The still was the most familiar object of the frontier farm, and the whiskey produced was the currency of the times. The man who paid the tax was looked upon as weakling, and he who tried to collect it a government hireling, attempting to take from the free man his birthright of freedom. The whiskey rebellion went into the history of the country, not as a riot,

but as a protest against unjust taxation.

Whiskey remained free from the Federal excise for half a century. It was made, marketed and used all over the country and the Federal government did not impose another tax until it was in the throes of another rebellion, and its very life at stake. The civil war quickly drained the Treasury, consumed all that could be raised by customs taxation and all that could be borrowed, and Secretary Chase turned to whiskey and tobacco, just as to tea, coffee and every other thing in sight. The whiskey tax produced more revenue than any other tax, and it was increased from 20 cents a gallon, to 50 cents, to \$1, to \$1.50, and to \$2, and at the higher rates produced frauds and scandal, a reduction to 70 cents in 1876, reducing the frauds and restoring the revenue.

It was such a good revenue producer that the tax was retained after other internal revenue taxes of the civil war were repealed. For twenty years the tax has been held at \$1.10 per proof gallon, the rate which experience has shown to be the greatest revenue producer. Above that rate illicit production cuts the taxes collected, and below that rate, while greater quantities might be made and tax paid, the total revenue by experience is not so large. The present excise tax tends to confirm James A. Garfield's statement that the government tax on liquors is at once the most equitable and salutary of all methods of national taxation. It now produces nearly one-third the ordinary revenues of the government, and has made whiskey as intimately associated with the upkeep of the government as it was with the early days of the nation's independence.

What the Tax Has Yielded.

The tax on whiskey has in the last fifty years put more than \$5,000,000,000 money into the Treasury of the United States, or enough to pay the cost of the civil war, and it is annually contributing enough to pay the pensions of the defenders of the Union, and to support the army and navy. The withdrawal of this national revenue now would entail a revolution in national finance which would extend to every nook and cranny of the fiscal system.

The question of what is whiskey and what are the results of drinking it has been discussed for many years, and on it there are libraries of literature, much of it pure fiction, but labeled scientific and statistical information. "Bobby" Burns created the character of "John Barleycorn," and John has been serving as a horrible example and an agent of the devil ever since, but the horrible example has discouraged the use of whiskey. It has, however, discouraged drunkenness, and encouraged a more temperate use of all beverages, whether alcoholic or nonalcoholic. Men have ceased to drink whiskey straight and have no prejudice against plenty of water in their highballs. The result is that the man who takes a highball and the man who takes a glass of beer or a glass of wine consume about the same amount of alcohol.

The propaganda against liquor has not apparently discouraged its general use, and more whiskey is now made and consumed than ever before in the history of the world. The increased manufacture and consumption of this country has been equal to that of the rest of the world. The records of consumption, "John Barleycorn" would appear to be as much of a myth as "Tanis" Shanter," another of Burns' creations. Certainly prohibition in the Southern States has had little effect on the use of alcoholic liquors, and it is charged by the prohibitionists that the reason for this is that their own prohibition laws, in order to be passed at all, must have provision for personal use, shipments of liquor. Therefore, while the saloon may cease as a licensed institution, the distribution and use of liquor continue.

A Sociologist's View. Speaking of prohibitionists and their assault on alcoholic liquors, especially the "liquor traffic," a sociologist recently said:

"Weak human nature has always favored the idea of casting out devils on the plea that some outside agency is responsible for the devil in the man. The Puritans did hold the witches responsible for introducing the evil spirits which made men go wrong, and the Puritans of today hold whiskey responsible. It is one of the oldest and most abused superstitions employed by men to excuse themselves for breaking the law, and it has always had a greater or less effect on stern sentimentality who want to reform the world with a club or with fire.

"Physiology, psychology, sociology and criminology have demonstrated that alcohol is no more responsible for the weaknesses, physical and mental, and the criminal tendencies of men than were the witches at Salem for the evil spirits which took possession of the weak, hysterical and law-breaking men of that day. The highest authorities in physiology, the world over, have found that alcohol is a food. The prohibitionists, with the perverseness of the Puritans, declared that alcohol is a poison.

"The psychologists have studied the problem and find that alcohol is no more responsible for insanity than is total abstinence, but the prohibitionists continue to assert that alcohol is filling the insane asylums.

"The highest authorities in criminology, after years of studying the records of criminal courts, penitentiaries and jails, deny that alcohol is responsible for murder, burglary, highway robbery and assault, but find the causes of crime far more deeply laid. The prohibitionists, however, assert that alcohol is the father and mother of all crime, just as the Puritans of Salem laid all the evils of the place on the witches they burned.

"The sociologists have found that alcohol is no more responsible for

poverty than pink ribbons and the movies, but the prohibitionists continue to believe that the prohibition of alcohol would make Carnegies, Rockefellers and Morgans the rule rather than the exception.

The worldwide feignings of the prohibitionists are pleasant to the ear of the man who falls out of the procession and to his friends who seek to find some other cause than his own inherent weakness or folly; and experiments have been made with prohibition for sixty years with the result of adding deceit, false witness, suspicion and general disrespect for the puritanical law. Wherever prohibition has been by the mandate of the law over a community that did not believe in it, there has been failure and defeat of the law by deception or by open revolt."

The views quoted find some warrant in American statistics.

Maine has had prohibition written in the State constitution for half a century and there is a greater percentage of arrests for intoxication in Maine than in New York or Pennsylvania, and bootleggers in Maine claim to be among the most influential molders of public opinion. Kansas has prohibition and Kansas has a greater percentage of insane than has Ohio or Nebraska. Kansas also has one of the highest divorce rates in the country, with a very high percentage of divorces granted for drunkenness and cruelty to wives. North Carolina has prohibition and North Carolina has a higher percentage of illiteracy than has Kentucky, the home of the still. Oklahoma has prohibition and Oklahoma has a smaller percentage of churchgoers than another State in the Union. All the prohibition States complain of poverty more than do the States which have no such laws to restrict the freedom of habit of the people.

A Committee of Inquiry.

So much hypothetical, sentimental and unreliable discussion of alcohol, both pro and con, had been put before the people of this country that in 1893 the committee of fifty, composed of distinguished men, was organized to study the subject from every possible scientific and sociological point of view, and some years later it published the results. Among the members of that committee of fifty were:

President Charles W. Eliot, LL. D., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.; Hon. Carrol D. Wright, A. M., LL. D., Clark College, Worcester, Mass.; Prof. Felix Adler, New York, N. Y.; Bishop Edward G. Andrews, D. D., Methodist Building, New York, N. Y.; Prof. W. O. Atwater, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.; Dr. J. S. Billings, Astor Library, New York, N. Y.; Charles J. Bonaparte, Baltimore, Md.; Prof. H. P. Bowditch, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.; Rev. Prof. Charles A. Briggs, D. D., New York, N. Y.; Prof. R. H. Chittenden, Sheffield Scientific School, New Haven, Conn.; Rt. Rev. Thomas Conroy, D. D., Los Angeles, Cal.; William E. Dodge, New York, N. Y.; Rev. Father A. P. Doyle, Paulist Fathers, New York, N. Y.; Rev. Father Walter Elliot, Paulist Fathers, New York, N. Y.; Prof. Richard T. Ely, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.; Daniel C. Gillman, Baltimore, Md.; Rev. Washington Gladden, D. D., Columbus, Ohio; Richard W. Gilder, esq., New York, N. Y.; President James McKeen Cattell, Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, Pa.; Rt. Rev. Alexander Mackay-Smith, D. D., Philadelphia, Pa.; Prof. J. J. McCook, Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.; Rev. T. T. Munger, D. D., New Haven, Conn.; Robert C. Ogden, esq., New York, N. Y.; Rev. Prof. Francis G. Peabody, D. D., Cambridge, Mass.; Rt. Rev. H. C. Potter, D. D., New York, N. Y.; Rev. W. L. Rainsford, New York, N. Y.; Jacob H. Schiff, New York, N. Y.

As will be noted from these names, the committee represented various religious denominations, and contained physicians, scientists, lawyers, teachers and students of history. The committee had no theory to work out or prejudice to prove or to disprove. The purpose was not to try alcohol on the numerous indictments of the professional temperance reformers, or to defend alcohol.

Report in Ten Volumes.

The committee recognized that, without the agitation of the years few facts and little scientific knowledge had been contributed to the temperance subject, and they felt that the subject should be treated with the same kind of investigation given to any other great matter of fact. They gave ten years to the investigation and sought the aid of the most prominent physicians, physiologists, chemists, penologists and sociologists in the world. Their report, published in 1905, filled ten large volumes and it covered every phase of the drink question, from the chemical analysis of alcoholic drinks to the responsibility for crime, disease and poverty. It is the one complete consideration of this question from reliable data on record, and the report is a cyclopedic of information. The following extract from this report considers the effect of alcoholic drinks:

"The question as to the amount of alcoholic drinks which can be used freely by the average adult without producing bad results is a difficult one, because individuals differ greatly in their susceptibilities to injurious effects from such drinks. It seems probable that there is such an average permissible quantity of alcohol, the minimum estimate of which is a glass of wine or a pint of beer in the twenty-four hours. The English standard, as formulated by Anstie, is the equivalent of one and one-half ounces of absolute alcohol per day, or about three ounces of whiskey, or half a bottle of claret or Rhine wine, or four glasses of beer, it being understood that this is to be taken only at lunch and dinner, and that the whiskey is to be well diluted.

"At least one-third of an ounce of alcohol, diluted to 10 per cent, must be taken before any departure from

the normal course can be detected in the average adult, and while the effects vary with the dose, it has yet to be shown that harm is done when the dose is less than that required to produce an effect in psychology and physiological tests of divergence from the normal.

"If all substances known to be injurious in large doses are to be entirely given up on the assumption that small doses are also injurious, then all condiments and spices must be removed from our tables. Even sugar in concentrated solution is a powerful cell poison. Certain poisons are normally present in our tissues in such quantities that they subserve no harmful, but rather a beneficial purpose. Such are the active principles of the thyroid gland and of the suprarenal capsules, both of which are far more powerful poisons than alcohol; that is, their lethal dose is several hundred times smaller.

"There are good grounds for believing that alcohol is always being produced in small quantities in the course of bacterial fermentation in the intestinal canal; that it is, in fact, normally present in the healthy organism."

Some Other Drinks.

In a table given in the report, showing the proportion of alcohol present in certain drinks, there are included a few of the so-called patent medicines which have a large sale in the New England States. Of these the committee of fifty said: "It will be seen that some of these drinks, under the names of bitters, celery compound, sarsaparilla, etc., contain a greater percentage of alcohol than ordinary wines and beers and are consumed in quantities so large that they must be classified as beverages rather than as medicines, under which name they are commonly sold. The sale of these beverages is greater in those States having prohibitory liquor laws than in those not having them, and their popularity is due almost entirely to the stimulating effects of the alcohol which they contain. They are not used for social purposes.

"It is difficult to give a satisfactory definition of a poison, for there is no substance which is always and everywhere a poison. The term is relative; conditions and circumstances of various kinds must always enter into its conception. No one would maintain that a cup of delicately flavored tea is in any sense injurious or poisonous to the average healthy adult, and yet caffeine, the active principle of this cup of tea, is a poison as surely as alcohol. The term poison belongs with equal propriety to a number of other food accessories, as coffee, pepper, ginger, and even common salt. The too sweeping and unrestricted use of this term in reference to alcoholic beverages immediately meets with the reply that if alcohol be a poison, it must be a very slow poison, since many have used it up to old age with apparently no prejudicial effects on health."

Food a Poison.

The committee of fifty invited the opinions and results of experiments from the best known physiologists of the world and they did not find any respectable authority who declared alcohol to be a poison. They found it classed as a food, a predigested food, an aid to the digestion of other foods, and a food product of high value. The committee also found the statements attributing to alcohol 75 per cent of the pauperism, crime and insanity to be untrue, after consulting with the authorities in charge of almshouses, jails, penitentiaries and asylums, and studying the records of those institutions, as well as securing the opinions of eminent sociologists, alienists and criminologists. The committee studied the conditions of saloons in all parts of the country, patronized by all classes of people, and found the common report and impression of saloons as erroneous as the exaggerated statements as to the responsibility of alcohol for disease, crime and poverty.

On this subject the committee's report says: "The fact that the saloon is more than a mere drinking place, and that it supplies many legitimate wants besides the craving for intoxication, should be frankly recognized, and ought to be of help to those who are engaged in practical efforts to counteract the evils of intemperance. This part of our investigation has been carried on mainly through the agency of social and university settlements, and these institutions are already taking advantage of the knowledge gained in their daily experience with the poor to offer at least some of those counteracting attractions and positive forces without which the driving out of the spirit of drink will be of no avail."

The committee expressed its disapproval of the alleged temperance textbooks introduced into many public schools, saying: "With regard to these educational methods, it is important to observe that they receive little or no support from the members of the medical profession, who, by their training, are especially qualified to judge of the accuracy and value of the statements as to the physiological action of alcohol which form the important features of the text-books in question."

Whiskey has thus had not only its intimate part in the life and history of the American people, but it has been the subject of a vast deal of discussion, lawmaking, and scientific investigation. The committee of fifty estimated that 80 per cent of the adult population were users of liquor to some extent. Whatever a man's views on whiskey, whether he be teetotaler or prohibitionist, the drinker of an occasional highball, or the physician who prescribes whiskey as a medicine, he will find the history of the great American drink an interesting sidelight on the development of the American people.